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BALISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION

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✓

on/military sales.

Q: =

Q2 Why was China not invited to participate in the MTCR?

A2. China, together with all other nations, was invited to join in April 1987 when the Regime was announced. As a first step, discussions were held among seven nations which were long-standing partners and major technology suppliers. Even so, the discussions that led to the multilateral MTCR were long and complicated. ^{offer to} [We have ~~briefed~~ Chinese officials in detail] on the goals and objectives of the regime, and we will continue to keep them informed of its evolution and expansion. ✓

Q3. What is the Soviet Union doing about missile proliferation?

A3. The Soviets have provided shorter range ballistic missiles to a number of countries, including Iraq and Syria. The INF Treaty obligates the Soviet Union to eliminate all ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 km and 5,500 km over a three-year period, and not to possess such weapons thereafter. As a practical matter, therefore, since the USSR must eliminate and not possess missiles in this range, it will not be able to transfer them to others. We believe that Moscow largely shares our concern about the destabilizing effect of ballistic missile in the Third World. On that basis, we have also engaged the Soviets in serious discussions aimed at securing their active cooperation in international efforts to curb the spread of these weapons, possibly through association with the MTCR.

Drafter: ACDA/NWC/ATD - FBoyd, X7-3496

Clearances: PM/STA - JZimmerman ✓
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